Nixon health 'not good' --David

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WASHINGTON — David Eisenhower says one of former President Nixon's legs is swollen twice its normal size from phlebitis, an inflamation of the veins, and his health is not good.

Eisenhower also says his father-in-law would have rejected the pardon President Ford offered if it had been tied directly to the issue of amnesty for Vietnam draft evaders and deserters.

Eisenhower, a law student at George Washington University, said today he talked with Nixon by phone last night and decided to be interviewed on a TV show because someone should be reacting to the pardon on behalf of the family.

He said he and his wife, Julie haven't seen the former President since he resigned Aug. 9 and returned to San Clemente.

Eisenhower was asked to comment on reports that Nixon is suffering deep fits of depression.

"I think he has his ups and downs," Eisenhower said. "Some people describe him as being sharper than ever in certain meetings and then at times . . . yes, he's depressed.

"Right at this very moment he's not feeling well. He has his leg elevated because (of the) phlebitis in his leg . . . the clot has moved above the knee and his one leg is swollen about twice its normal size. His health is not good.

"He's fighting that. He can't play golf, he can't relax, he can't unwind and so I would say his spirits are not great right now. There's no question about that . . ."

Speaking of the pardon that Ford announced Sunday, Eisenhower said his father-in-law was "in one sense relieved that the Vietnam amnesty issue had not been tied directly to his pardon.

"Had the amnesty issue been tied directly to his pardon, he would have had no choice but to stand trial and he would have done so and refused the pardon."

Eisenhower said he believes Ford's controversial decision "was motivated primarily in what he felt was the best interests of the nation."

He said Ford may have

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thought "he would in some way assist in defusing this as a national issue and enable the country to get on with the country's business."

Both Eisenhower and Nixon's other son-in-law, Edward Cox, previously were quoted as saying there has been no elation by Nixon or his family over the pardon.

The friend added that both Cox and Eisenhower felt the country should be told of Nixon's condition and quoted David as saying, "Things are not well."

"He still believes he is innocent and that a pardon was not necessary," the friend said.

"Futhermore, members of Nixon's family feel the same way . . . . the family was not jubilant about it because it is an admission of guilt. They are relieved but there is no air of happiness."

Former White House physician Walter Tkach was reportedly scheduled to fly to California tomorrow to see Nixon because of the family's deep concern over his condition.

Cox and his wife, Nixon's elder daughter Tricia, have been on the phone with the former President, and concern over Nixon's health prompted Cox to speak out without revealing his identity.